

STRATFORD.—Rev. G. Trotter Carr. In February, Mr. Carr wrote :

With all our care and economy, and we have cut everything down to the lowest notch, we are nearly forty dollars behind in the first six months of my pastorate. This, in addition to the old annoying floating debt, leaves us about \$230 in arrears on ordinary working expenses. It also makes us stand discredited in the community. I have committed myself and the church to this : "Sink or swim, *no more debt* for working expenses." Only last night we had a demand from the Gas Company for a payment of \$43, due before I took charge. Instead of paying for a Janitor \$60 a year as formerly, our young people have undertaken to keep the church clean, light the fires, etc.

The old parsonage is made to do new work. The large front room has been made cozy, and in it the Bible class, and prayer meetings are held. Our aim was (Mrs. Carr's and mine) to make it a "Congregational *House*."

Mr. and Mrs. Carr certainly merit all sympathy in their brave and unselfish struggle against strong "contrary winds" of cumulative unpaid church-bills, for which they were in no-wise responsible.

From knowledge gleaned by the Secretary while on the ground for a Sunday, much reason was found for encouraging a steadfast band of workers, in their really heroic adherence to the Congregational cause, despite very serious odds against them.

HAMILTON, IMMANUEL CHURCH.—Rev. W. H. Watson. In December last, Mr. Watson reported :

This report embraces 26 weeks. Made 257 visits. Did a good deal of outside work. Have received 5 by letter and 7 by profession. We have 53 members all told. Financially, we are slowly getting to the point of paying our expenses. We have new platform chairs presented to us, and we hope to get a new pulpit soon. I was asked to go to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, but preferred to stay on (that is, they wanted me to let my name be brought up there). Although at times I get discouraged, and feel like giving up to some one else, I go on again, and hope for better things. Our congregations are much larger, and more men come than ever. If we could only keep what we get ! but the neighborhood is so changeful. I am paid promptly to the day, and we hold every object of the denomination before us.

From Mr. Watson's report in May :

Audiences remain the same. Our membership has suffered by some removals.

[Mr. Watson has been blamed by some for his giving undue prominence to the cause of Missions, in view of the needs of the local work. It is no strange thing, however, that there should be such criticism ; such criticisms are heard in more than one field].

We have only about ten Congregationalists outside of our own family in the church. It is therefore not easy to *enthuse* the people from a deno-

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